

We Claim:

1. A printhead assembly for an ink jet printer, the printhead assembly comprising
an elongate manifold that defines a plurality of ink passages and is dimensioned to
5 span a print area;
at least one elongate printhead chip that is mounted on the manifold also to span the
print area, the printhead chip having a plurality of ink inlets, each ink inlet being in fluid
communication with a respective ink passage of the manifold;
an elongate baffle unit that is mounted on the manifold so that the manifold is
10 interposed between the at least one printhead chip and the baffle unit;
an elongate housing that is mounted on the baffle unit, the baffle unit and the
housing defining at least one ink storage chamber and at least one respective inlet in fluid
communication with the at least one ink storage chamber; and
a data and power supply arrangement that is connected to the at least one printhead
15 chip so that control signals can be transmitted to the at least one printhead chip.
2. A printhead assembly as claimed in claim 1, in which the manifold is in the form of
a molded, unitary structure that defines at least three sets of ink supply passages, each set
corresponding with a respective ink to be used by the printhead chips, the manifold further
20 defining an elongate recess in which the printhead chips can be received, the ink supply
passages opening into the recess.
3. A printhead assembly as claimed in claim 2, in which the baffle unit and the housing
define at least three longitudinally extending ink storage chambers, the manifold being
25 received in the baffle unit with each set of ink supply passages being in fluid
communication with one respective ink storage chamber, the baffle unit defining a series of
spaced baffle members in each storage chamber to inhibit excessive ink movement upon
movement of the printhead assembly.
- 30 4. A printhead assembly as claimed in claim 2, in which the baffle unit has a pair of
opposed end walls and a pair of spaced longitudinal walls so that, with the housing, one ink
storage chamber is defined between the end walls and the longitudinal walls and two ink
storage chambers are defined between the end walls and respective longitudinal walls and

side walls of the housing, one of the end walls defining three inlets in fluid communication with respective ink storage chambers.

5. A printhead assembly according to claim 1, wherein the housing defines a number
5 of hydrophobically sealed breather holes to permit the passage of air through the holes while inhibiting the passage of liquid through the holes.

6. A printhead assembly as claimed in claim 1, in which the data and power supply
arrangement includes a pair of bus bars that are mounted on the housing and a tape-
10 automated bonding strip that extends about the housing and interconnects the bus bars and the printhead chips.

7. A printhead assembly as claimed in claim 1, which includes a cover member that
engages the housing to enclose the bus bars and the tape-automated bonding strip.

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8. A printer that includes a printhead assembly as claimed in claim 1.